

May Your Christmas be Spirit-Filled

Is it really December already?

Time seems to pass like a huge snowball going down a steep hill--blink your eyes and it's gone! Time marches on day after day, week after week, and month after month. And as the old saying goes, "Time flies when we're having fun!"

Are you having fun this year?

Life is typically made up of moments that are both a blessing a curse. We experience mountaintop experiences as well as deep, dark valleys. And yet, life is often what we make it. Sure you can blame a bad day on getting out of the wrong side of bed, but didn't you choose which side to get out? The glass of life can be half-full or half-empty, but you decide which it is for you!

I prefer to be a positive and optimistic person. I think I was taught this by family members and mentors throughout my life, for which I am extremely thankful. This time of year often makes we think of these invaluable and special people in my life. I am always impressed by those who are upbeat and positive in the way they live out their daily lives. It is an inspiration to me and is something I readily desire to emulate!

The Christmas season is chock-full of all kinds of possibilities! We can give to others and watch their eyes light up. We tend to pay closer attention to our children in this season, too. Their eyes tell the whole story and story is one of hope and excitement and pure possibility!

I believe we should all have the attitude of a child in the Christmas season!

Too many of us become old curmudgeons and scrooges as we age. We somehow lose the wonder and excitement the Christmas season brings us.

Not this year!

My prayer for you and yours is that you will be filled by the Holy Spirit this Christmas season. After all, Jesus is the reason for the season, isn't he? I recognize there are many tasks that need to be done between now and Christmas Day. It is very easy to lose sight of the main reason of the season. We need to bring ourselves back to this real meaning.

Christmas is a wonderful time of year. The lights and decorations display the festive occasion. Family and friends gather to give and receive gifts. Children whisper to Santa what they hope he will bring them on Christmas morning. Hope is alive and well in this season of giving!

May your Christmas be bright, and may your silent nights be holy and blessed!



Bob Shank

Daily Scripture Readings

December 1
Colossians 1

December 2
Colossians 2

December 3
Colossians 3

December 4
Colossians 4

December 5
Hosea 1

December 6
Hosea 2

December 7
Hosea 3

December 8
Hosea 4

December 9
Hosea 5

December 10
Hosea 6

December 11
Hosea 7

December 12
Hosea 8

December 13
Hosea 9

December 14
Hosea 10

December 15
Hosea 11

December 16
Hosea 12

December 17
Hosea 13

December 18
Hosea 14

December 19
1 Peter 1

December 20
1 Peter 2

December 21
1 Peter 3

December 22
1 Peter 4

December 23
1 Peter 5

December 24
2 Peter 1

December 25
2 Peter 2

December 26
2 Peter 3

December 27
Proverbs 1

December 28
Proverbs 2

December 29
Proverbs 3

December 30
Proverbs 4

December 31
Proverbs 5

Gather! Grow! Make a Difference!



To Serve You in December

Greeters	8:30
2	Jackie Herrero
9	Kirsten Lee
16	Joe & Carole Vuchak
23	John & Carole Burrus
30	DeAnn Harris
	11:00
2	BJ Bachman
9	BJ Bachman
16	Betty Michelin
23	Vivian Cobbs
30	Joanne Reed
Ushers	8:30
Bryan Hill	
Kay Bucci-Rutt	
“The Ladies”	
	11:00
CJ Penwell	
Eileen Sebring	
Glenn Singer	
Joni Singer	
Altar Guild	
Eleanor Bentzoni & Betty Schuler	
Counters	
Carole Everitt & Sue Gouger	
Soup Kitchen	
2	Pen Argyl UMC-Tom Odenwelder
9	Faith UMC - Kate Andrews
16	PMC Internal Medicine-Nancy Fisch
23	McMichael’s UMC-Pastor Ed
30	Judy Cherepko & Friends



OUR CHURCH STAFF

Ministers	Everyone
Pastors	Bob Shank & Ted Good
Pastor Emeritus	Tom Anderman
Church Secretary	Jackie Herrero
Choir Director	Dave Lantz
Organist	Marti Lantz
Youth Leader	Vincent Zelizo
Handbell Director	Lynn Seip
Custodian	Matt Parton

CHURCH LEADERS

Daniel’s Dream Team
Chairperson, Boyd Butz
Worship
Chairpersons, Ralph Harrison, Pastor Bob Shank
Stewardship
Chairperson, Carole Everitt
Property & Building
Chairperson, Carl Karchner
Servant Resource Team
Chairperson, Beryl Hellgren
Missions
Chairperson, Alberta Weber
Membership & Evangelism
Chairperson, Peggy Stewart
Lay Leader
Beryl Hellgren
Activities Coordinator
Jeremy Stoeckel



WANTED: Persons available on Monday mornings from 9 am - 11 am, two months a year as counters. Training and equipment provided. If available please contact the church office or Carole Everitt at 421-0459.

Justin Stanton's Eagle Scout Project Fundraiser

Waffle Breakfast

When: December 8, 2012
7:00 am - 11:00 am

Where: Stroudsburg United Methodist Church
Stroudsburg, PA

Cost: \$6.00 per person

Menu: Homemade Belgian Waffles
Sausage
Fruit toppings (apples, cherries, blueberries)
Orange juice, Coffee



Stewardship

Praise the Lord! We continue to have giving income up 3% (\$4,949.00) over this time last year and all bills including our Conference Apportionment have been paid. We truly have much to be thankful for. Thank you to all who have given so generously and faithfully.

In October \$860.00 was designated giving toward the elevator. Total giving for the elevator project is \$269,475.31. Again, thank you to all who have given so faithfully and generously to this project. To date \$327,325.00 has been paid to Edinger Construction toward the project with \$41,685.00 due upon completion. Close to \$100,000.00 is needed to fully fund the project. Please give prayerful consideration as to how you can help to financially support this project.

The Stewardship Committee has been working on the 2013 budget. Commitment Sunday to submit pledges for 2013 was November 4. To date we have received only 31 pledge cards for a total of \$70,962.00 pledged to fund the 2013 budget. Our 2012 budget was \$255,042.74 and the 2013 budget is looking to be about the same maintaining our current programs. If you have not already done so please give prayerful consideration to submitting a pledge for 2013. Pledge cards can be obtained from the church office or the back of the sanctuary and returned to the church office. We realize in these trying financial times as well as other circumstances, our income status can change overnight. Your pledge is a guide for us and can be changed at any time as circumstances prevail. Again, please give prayerful consideration of your commitment to SUMC and it's mission.

We continue to look for persons willing to share two hours on Monday mornings two months out of the year as a counter. All training and supplies are free of charge!! Please contact Carole Everitt if you are interested in this part-time position.

As always, the Stewardship Committee asks for your prayers for SUMC and its growth as well as for our committee as we complete the budget for 2013.

Stewardship Committee: Carole Everitt, Fran Harrison, Paul Edinger, Dan Butz, Kirsten Lee, Ruth Weber



Terrific Tuesday Update

from
Chef Bill

Dear friends;

After careful consideration, I would like to postpone having our regular third Tuesday dinners for the time being.

Firstly, I am convinced that we should not get in the way of those who need our kitchen and dining room for the Tuesday night soup kitchen which now averages 60+ attendees. Because of a recent communication mix up, I was the one who had to tell the assembled folks that there was no food for them. I will never do that again. We could have our gatherings in the fellowship room upstairs however; at the current time there is no elevator service to transport the prepared food or those who have difficulties with the stairs. Time will fix that.

Secondly, my work schedule has become quite uncertain. Due to very extensive damage from hurricane Sandy to our best customer areas, we have almost no customers at Tuscarora. We are stable till the end of the year, after that it's uncertain what my schedule will be.

Let's just take a break, let things run their course, and continue again when it is possible.

Wishing you Advent Blessings!

Bill Stewart

Helping a needy family this Christmas

If anyone is interested in helping a needy family this Christmas,
I have a list of children, their ages, and their wish list. Please call me in the church office.

Thank you! Jackie

NEW ADDRESS

Bessie Frailey
24604 Skyline View Drive
Malibu, CA 90265-4720

Please make the change in your church directory.

Altar Guild

You will notice on the altar are two new artificial poinsettia plants given to us by Shawnee Press via their representative, Krista Montgomery for us to use during the advent season.

Thank you very much.

UMW News

The Christmas Tea will be Saturday, December 8th, at 2 pm. All are welcome. Please bring cookies only.

No gift exchanges.

Important December Dates

Sundays in Advent @ 7 pm:

“Christmas Traditions” - sign up at the rear of the sanctuary or call the church office.

December 16 - Choir Christmas Cantata

December 24 - Christmas Eve
Candlelighting Services
7:30 pm & 11:00 pm
(Communion at 11:00 pm)



December Birthdays

- 1 Tim Stewart
- 5 Carol Romansky
- 11 James Lewis
- 11 Emily Louise Vail
- 13 Eleanor Bentzoni
- 14 Jimmy Stewart
- 18 Carole Vuchak
- 18 Brittney Fiedler
- 18 Alex Herrero
- 20 Lydia Shank
- 20 James Shank
- 25 Gil Bennett
- 26 Betty Michelin
- 26 Doris Widdoss
- 28 Rose Schwedler
- 28 Cindy Transue
- 31 Crista Kopec

If you would like a card on your special day, please call the church office: 421-6020.



“Christmas Traditions”
an Advent experience for all ages!
Sundays 7:00 to 8:30 pm

The Membership & Evangelism Team invites you
to join your church friends each Sunday evening in Advent to celebrate
some Christmas traditions. Everyone is welcome to come all four
weeks or just one or two as your schedule allows.

All programs are free and anyone is welcome,
but please sign up so we know how many to prepare for.

Sunday, December 2nd – Advent Wreath Making – bring 4 candles: 4 purple or blue.
Or 3 purple/blue and one pink. We will supply the Advent wreath ring
and pine boughs. If you have a ring from a previous year, please remember to
bring it.

Sunday, December 9th – Celebrate St. Nicholas Day by making cookies – enough to taste and some to
bring home!

Sunday, December 16th - Christmas ornaments – Make Chrismons and folded paper ornaments
for your tree.

Sunday, December 23rd – Christmas Carol & Hymn sing with cookies & hot chocolate. The singing
is optional – please join us for the fellowship!

Sign up at the rear of the sanctuary or
by calling Jackie in the church office (421-6020)



Questions?

Contact Peggy Stewart (424-0625) or Beryl Hellgren (421-4024)

DECEMBER 2012

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	26 7:00 PM Mostly Monday's Small Group	27 6:00 PM Daughter's of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Meeting 7:00 PM UMW Meeting Fellowship Room	28 6:00 PM Cub Pack Meeting 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal	29 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	30	1
2	8:30 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room 6:00 PM Cub Leaders Planning Meeting 7:00 PM M & E Christmas Traditions Advent Wreath Making	3 7:00 PM Alberta Weber's Small Group-Blue Room 7:00 PM Mostly Monday's Small Group	4 6:00 PM Daughter's of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen 6:30 PM Property & Building Team Meeting 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Meeting 7:00 PM Dig Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM Missions Meeting	5 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 2:00 PM Steth & Pray Small Group 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal	6 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 5:30 PM Getting Ahead 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	7	8 6:00 AM Waffle Breakfast-Downstairs-Eagle Scout Project Fundraiser 2:00 PM UMW Christmas Tea-Fellowship Room
9	8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 12:00 PM Pizza with the Pastors-Fellowship Room 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room 7:00 PM M & E Christmas Traditions Celebrate St. Nicholas Day	10 7:00 PM Mostly Monday's Small Group	11 6:00 PM Daughter's of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Meeting 7:00 PM Dig Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM M & E Meeting Lounge	12 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal	13 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	14 5:00 PM Soup Kitchen	15
16	Choir Christmas Cantata 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room 7:00 PM M & E Christmas Traditions Christmas Ornaments	17 7:00 PM Alberta Weber's Small Group-Blue Room 7:00 PM Mostly Monday's Small Group	18 6:00 PM Daughter's of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Meeting 7:00 PM Dig Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM Steth & Pray Small Group	19 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Pack Christmas Party 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal	20 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 5:30 PM Getting Ahead Holiday Meal 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	21	22
23	8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room 7:00 PM M & E Christmas Traditions Christmas Carol & Hymn Sing	24 7:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service/Communion	25 Merry Christmas!	26 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal	27 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	28 5:00 PM Soup Kitchen	29
30	8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	31	1 6:00 PM Daughter's of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen	2 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal	3 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	4	5

**STROUDSBURG UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

547 MAIN STREET

STROUDSBURG PA 18360

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

PERMIT No. 122

Stroudsburg, PA

December 2012

